Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /070 W

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R 201144Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8497
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS MUNICH 1489

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

- 1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. ON MAY 18, BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT GOPPEL ANNOUNCED RESHUFFLE OF HIS CABINET NECESSITATED BY RESIGNATIONS OF MIN FINANCE HUBER AND MIN INTERIOR MERK, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ASSUMING IMPORTANT BANK POSITIONS IN BAVARIA. RESHUFFLE HAS BEEN IN OFFING FOR SOME TIME AND SIGNALS NO REPEAT NO CHANGE IN CSUDOMINATED BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT'S COURSE. END SUMMARY.
- 2. MAX STREIBL, INCUMBENT MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, WILL REPLACE HUBER AS MIN FINANCE. STREIBL IS CHAIRMAN OF CSU'S UPPER BAVARIA DISTRICT, CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF STRAUSS AND ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT POWER BROKERS IN CSU. DR. ALFRED SEIDL, STATE SECRETARY IN MIN JUSTICE, WILL SUCCEED MERK AS MIN INTERIOR. UNCLASSIFIED

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SEIDL, A SPECIALIST IN INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS, IS ALSO REGARDED AS STRAUSS FOLLOWER.

3. STATE SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ALFRED DICK WILL MOVE INTO MINISTERIAL SLOT VACATED BY STREIBL. DICK IS WIDELY REGARDED AS EXPERT IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS. DR. MAX FISCHER, MDL,

WILL SUCCEED DICK AS STATE SECRETARY. FRANZ NEUBAUER, MDL, WILL TAKE OVER AS STATE SECRETARY IN MIN INTERIOR.

- 4. DR. KARL HILLERMEIER, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS DEPUTY MINISTER-PRESIDENT, A TITLE PREVIOUSLY HELD BY OUTGOING MIN FINANCE HUBER.
- 5. NEWSPAPERMEN USED OCCASION OF GOPPEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET CHANGES TO ASK HIM ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE PLANS. HE RESPONDED WITH KIND OF DELPHIC UTTERANCES HE HAS GIVEN IN PAST. GOPPEL NOTED THAT BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT IS NORMALLY ELECTED FOR FOUR YEARS, OBSERVED THAT HIS PRESENT TERM WOULD NORMALLY RUN UNTIL FALL OF 1978, AND DECLINED TO SEPCULATE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF EARLY RESIGNATION TO MAKE WAY FOR CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS.
- 6. COMMENT. CABINET RESHUFFLE HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME. IT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT, IN CONGEN'S VIEW, PRODUCE ANY SHARP CHANGE IN COURSE ON PART OF CSU-DOMINATED BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT.
- 7. MAY 20 NEWSPAPER HEADLINES STATING THAT GOPPEL INTENDS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL 1978 ARE MISLEADING. GOPPEL IS SIMPLY NOT REPEAT NOT WILLING TO SAY WHETHER HE AND STRAUSS HAVE AGREED THAT HE WILL STEP DOWN BEFORE EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM IN FALL OF 1978.BETTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PROVINCE, CABINET, REPORTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUNICH01489
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Format: TEL

Film Number: D770181-0089

From: MUNICH

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770536/aaaabeni.tel

Line Count: 88 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d520408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2437249 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

TAGS: PINT, GE To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d520408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009